

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 127443

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 /017 R

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DRAFTED BY: ARA:GECHAFIN

APPROVED BY: ARA:GECHAFIN

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O 311824Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127443

STADIS//////////

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOL REPEAT OF PORT OF SPAIN 1314 TO SECSTATE INFO BRIDGETOWN

GEORGETOWN KINGSTON MAY 30

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1314

STADIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BBAK, TD, EINV

SUBJ: BRIBERY OF FOREIGN OFFICIALS BY US CORPORATIONS

REF: STATE 120843

1. CHARGE' D' AFFAIRES DISCUSSED ABOVE SUBJECT AT SOME LENGTH MAY 28 WITH DR. CUTHBERT JOSEPH, MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND LEFT COPY OF OFFICIAL USG STATEMENT CONDEMNING ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES BY U.S. CORPORATIONS ABROAD (STATE 114551).

2. JOSEPH EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN SUBJECT. HE
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CAREFULLY RECAPITULATED POINTS DISCUSSED AND IT WAS QUITE

CLEAR THAT HE UNDERSTOOD USG CONCERN THAT COMPANIES NOT BE
TARRED WITH GUILT BY ASSOCIATION AND THAT ANY ACTIONS
TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE NONDISCRIMINATORY. I
ASSURED JOSEPH THAT OUR DISCUSSION DID NOT SUGGEST THAT
WE HAD ANY SUSPICION THAT ANY FIRM OPERATING IN
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN ANY IMPROPER
ACTIVITY OF THE KIND ALREADY REVEALED IN THE PRESS, AND
BELIEVE HE FULLY ACCEPTED THIS ASSURANCE.

3. IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE FURTHER DISCLOSURES ARISING
FROM CONTINUING INVESTIGATIONS OF CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE
AND SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, JOSEPH REQUESTED
SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UNITED BRANDS AND GULF
OIL CASES WHICH HAVE ALREADY MADE HEADLINES. WE
PLAN TO PROVIDE SOME MATERIAL FROM ARA PRESS CLIPS WHICH
SUMMARIZES MEDIA ACCOUNTS OF THESE CASES, BUT IF GOTT
SHOULD REQUEST MORE OFFICIAL MATERIAL WOULD APPRECIATE
DEPT'S ADVICE AS TO WHETHER THIS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE,
AND IN WHAT FORM. PRESUME CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE WILL
EVENTUALLY PUBLISH RECORD OF ITS HEARINGS.

4. I BELIEVE USG INITIATIVE TO BRING OUR POSITION ON
THESE HEADLINE EVENTS PRIVATELY AND DIRECTLY TO
ATTENTION OF GOTT WAS SOUND STEP WHICH SHOULD MITIGATE
REACTION HERE AND PLACES US IN POSITION TO CONTINUE
DIALOGUE SHOULD ANY LOCAL PROBLEMS EVER ARISE. AT
PRESENT, HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS NO INDICATION THAT ANY
IMPROPER ACTIVITY BY AMERICAN FIRMS HAS TAKEN PLACE
HERE.

5. DEPTTEL 124032 ONLY RECEIVED AFTER CONVERSATION
WITH DR. JOSEPH, BUT FROM TENOR OF THAT CONVERSATION
BELIEVE HE WAS UNAWARE MAY 28 OF PERUVIAN PROPOSAL
TO RAISE THIS ISSUE IN OAS FORUM. BELIEVE OUR
DISCUSSION HAD MORE IMPACT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES THAN
IT WOULD HAVE HAD AS APPARENT USG EFFORT TO DEFLECT
CRITICISM IN OAS.
RICH UNQTE INGERSOLL

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